

V. PERIOD OF PEACE (1763-1792)

"In January, the Hussars arrived at Cassel, where the regiment passed the final muster of four escadrons, 120 men on the equestrian, and both the crew and the horses were very admired by everyone. On the 15th of January the strong reduction took place, as only four of the four squadrons were trained to be 101 men with prima plana (under officers and corporals)."¹

It may have been difficult for some of the tried and tested warriors to part with the comrades on whose side they fought so long, with whom they had so many memories.

But they were country descendants, returned to their homes, they were amply provided with the payment of backward wages, and went with fresh courage to the resumption of their bourgeois trade.

Hence neither the landgrave nor his councilor may have thought that such an action was injurious to the people, and that many of them, wearying themselves from regulated activity, were confronting the wretched.

The reduction of the troops was precisely a customary measure, which was ordered by the limited means of the small States, and which was ordered without further consideration.

The question of the dismissal of officers, however, seems more difficult to the Count. There are several proposals and various combinations in the acts concerning the question of which officers are to be retained, which should be adopted or moved.

Gräffendorff received the regiment Gendarmes, Katzeler, his deputy Major von Dalwigk became commander of the Hussars Corps, Major von Dalwigk became commander of the Hussars Corps, whose rank list on 1 January 1764 was the following:²

Commander: Major George of Dalwigk,

Rittmeister: Justus Schreiber,

Stabs-Rittmeister: Ferdinand von Klockher, Wilhelm Graff, Rudolf Ludwig von Trott,

Lieutenants: Moritz Levin von Prüschenk, Johann Zülch (Regimental Quartermaster), George Wolff, Johann Daniel Stein, Jock Jgnazi,

Cornets: Heinrich Fliess, Heinrich Rudorff, Ludwig Avenarius, (Adjutant), Philipp Jüngst.

In 1765, for the first time, the national calendar described the uniform of the Hussars Corps: "Light blue furs, yellow tulmanns³, with gold." It must be assumed that the corps had been wearing the same clothing earlier, at least since 1744. "

From 1 June 1765 to 29 June 1773, the Hussars Corps was owned by a standard and two timpani. In 1786, when Wilhelm IX, hitherto governing Count of Hanau-Münzenberg, succeeded his father, he spoke of the union of Hanau with Hesse. A new Husaren-Escadron under Rittmeister Rudorff was formed and moved first to Hanau, 1787 to Gelnhausen.

In the last year, the Corps was extended by a third squadron, which formed the riders of Lehsten in Nieder-Hessen.

The corps, which were now called the "Hussar Regiment," was also determined, and to the attainment of these 258 recruits and ninety-three Remonten, the latter partly from the Marstall (no longer exclusively Schimmel).

With a change of the name "Hussars-Regiment" instead of "Hussar Corps" the troop received another uniform in 1787: light blue furs, yellow tulmanns with silver; For this were white petticoats, high fur hats, light blue saddle-sheets: c. carried (See Figure 2 "Hussars of 1787." This uniform was kept with the regiment until 1806.) The headquarters changed frequently, but were mostly in the vicinity of Cassel, the state calendar calling 1765 Ober-Kaufungen, 1767-68 Cassel, 1781 Staff: Cassel, stand Immenhausen, 1786 also Hanau, 1788 Immenhausen and the surrounding area, 1791 Grebenstein.

After the reduction to one Squadron, the budget of the Hussars Corps amounted to 1764: 7 subordinates, 2 trumpets, 85 congregations, and a total of 94 heads. In 1767, this figure fell to 67, 1769 to 52, and 1779 to 47, to rise to about 120 heads in 1778 and 1782. After the establishment of the 2nd (Hapsburg-Hauau) Escadron, the Corps had likewise 120 men; In 1787 the regiment of three squadrons had a strength of 18 non-commissioned officers, six trumpeters, 164 hussars; The total number reached 345 heads since 1790. The use of the Hussar Corps was the same as had been described in the peace period of 1749-57; In 1778, on the frontier of

Thuringia, greater connections were made, in order to counteract the attacks of Austrian recruits; In 1774, the Hussars made a great expedition through the whole of Hesse, in order to seize the robbers. Supported by the garrison soldiers (the troops of the so-called garrison battalions of the then militia), a large number of gypsies and vagrants, among them the most dangerous of the robbers, succeeded in bringing in the "Reuben King." Unfortunately he escaped from a deficient prison, and, like his feared comrade, the "black Christel," left the country.

The smugglers also made much of the hussars at Waldeck's frontier; Zennern and Nieder-Möllerich⁴) were always occupied with commandos, which remained during the maneuver.

Desertions also occurred, but this seems to have been remarkably mild, as the following two cases show. In 1783 the hussar Walter, who had been denied consensus on marriage, deserted, and returned, when he had compelled him to do so. In 1787, the hussar cook departed, and, when he passed the frontier, sought to negotiate his horse at the factory. An accidental Hessian invalid asked to be allowed to try; When this was granted, he rode straight across the frontier to Hesse, and gave the horse to the governor of the fortress of Carlshafen. Two Louisd'or Douceurs were his reward. The hussar, who lacked the means for further development, now resigned himself to the Corps.

In the years 1788, 1789 and 1790, large groups of troops took place with maneuvers. The last of them happened at Bergen to cover the election of Leopold II.

Both Frederick II as Wilhelm IX. Had set the goal of their policy to obtain the title of "Royal Highness" for the Hessian Cassel prince's house, and for the respective Landgrave.

Efforts which were supported by Prussia were opposed by the Emperor and the other Catholic electors, who were reluctant to see the Protestant voices of the electoral collegium, which was very influential under the Reich constitution. Yet the Landgraf did not give up the hope of finally reaching the goal. After Hesse had promised large sums of money to the ambassadors, diplomatic and other courtiers of the various Kurdish states, and even greater was promised in the event of the success of the treatises, Wilhelm IX appeared on the occasion of the imperial election of Leopold II.

In order to impress upon the princes assembled here, and to prove the advantage to the electoral college in troubled times of having a prince in their midst, who had a capable army and ample funds, the Landgraf ordered the electors of Mainz, presidents of the Elector to summon troops to secure the Electoral City during the election held in Frankfurt in October 1796.

At this request, the Landgraf assembled ten battalions, one cavalry squadron, three hussar squadrons, a company of huntsmen, a detachment of the artillery regiment with three heavy guns, Summa 270 officers, 7030 men, twenty-three guns, to a camp at the height of Bergen north of Frankfurt, where in April 1759 the battle between Duke Ferdinand and Marshal von Broglio took place.

The camp had front to the south and lay on the western foothills of a hilly chain descending steeply southwards to the Mainthal. On the right wing of the camp, three cavalry field guards were guarded by a cavalryman, a junior officer, four officers, and twenty-four horses. The steep slopes lying in front of the front, occupied by fruit trees and vines, secured infantry field guards; A hunter's commander joined the latter, and made a connection with the Hussars-Feldwache, standing before him, by an officer, three under officers, twenty horses (a master of the Rittmeister); In the place itself the Hussars regiment, twelve officers, thirty underofficials, three Feldschers, seven men, 300 men, five men of the staff, 357 heads strong.

The bulk of the Hunters' Company was in the village of Enkheim, which was situated south of Bergen, and had still pushed a commanding officer from one officer, a subofficial, twelve common men to Seckbach. Vilbel, too, in the rear of the camp was occupied by a division of one officer, two officers, thirty commons.

The occasion was not only used to accustom the troops to camp life; But also exercises in larger associations were made. Almost daily, exercises of the individual weapons took place, and on these two days, joint maneuvers of the whole corps were concluded.

On the 2nd of October, against a prominent enemy, and on the 16th, two detachments against each other were maneuvered against each other. On the last day, an attack from the east on the camp was presented. When the defendant was repelled by the defender, and the attacker was

to set fire to cover his retreat, this was represented very naturally by a few hundred badly wreaths and gingerly steamers.

On the 11th of October, the newly-elected emperor took a great parade of the whole corps, which consisted in the fact that all the troops, placed in a line, advanced at the same time 120 paces with sounding play Revue.

On the 17th the corps entered the retreat to Lower Hesse. All political efforts and all the effort had been in vain. The electoral college, on the 14th of October, had refused the petition of the landgrave. But while in Germany bribery and parades were struggling for a title, the world-shattering events, which were called the first French Revolution, developed in France.

In the course of the preceding account we have seen how France participated in almost all the wars of the previous century by powerful armies. These wars and the extravagant court keeping of fine kings had cost the country large sums.

These expenditures were disproportionately low, since the possessions of the aristocracy and the clergy were exempted from taxes, but the levying of duties and taxes was in the hands of a licentious tariff-keeper, who had much to squeeze and to spare little. Thus an intolerable need for money arose, which did not suffice to lift the king's power.

Therefore, Louis XVI. In the spring of 1789 the "General States," an assembly of deputies of the aristocracy, the clergy, and the third estate, to establish remedial measures.

But an agreement of the estates was not to be achieved, and the assembly was to be resolved, when a part of the deputies of the 3rd estate constituted themselves as representatives of the people, as a "national assembly," and soon with the aid of the Parisian mob seized power in the country.

Under the influence of the theories of equal human rights, which had been preached by the French writers of the last decades, a revolt movement, directed against the existing, developed. Dieselbe was introduced by the order of August 4, 1789, which abolished all the privileges of the privileged estates. This also deprived some of the German princes who had possessions in Alsace, since their rights, guaranteed by treaties, were affected by this measure.

The Emperor Leopold advocated the same, negotiations on the compensation to be granted were made, and would have led to a peaceful settlement if such a party had been in the plans of the French party leaders. The foreign policy was of importance to them only in so far as it gave them material for their passionate declamations and a basis for the suspicion of their opponents. The present ruling party needed war to assert itself in its position, and, in spite of the wildest speeches directed against all the thrones and orders of the state, in spite of the decision to set up three armies at the frontiers, France's neighbors did not take up arms, The French rulers declared war on April 20, 1792, on the pretext that it would support the emigrated nobility, who planned an armed return.

The peaceful dispositions which Austria and Prussia had shown to France were partly due to the fact that they feared that Russia would use the moment when they were engaged in the West to take possession of the Polish kingdom close to the dissolution. Although many Prussian politicians, at their head, Ferdinand von Braunschweig, whom we had known as a hereditary prince in the Seven Years' War, felt that Prussia must use this moment to unite with Russia in the east, and thereby give Austria a predominance Germany, King Frederick William II remained faithful to the agreements made at Pillnitz with the Emperor Leopold, and declared war on France, especially with the desire to join the unfortunate King Louis XVI, whose existence was more and more threatened each day. Of the rest of the imperial princes only Hesse-Cassel was ready to take an active part. After the question whether Prussia wanted to pay Subsidia to the Landgrave, some negotiations were called forth

On July 31, 1792, a convention was concluded, according to which Hesse would send 4,000 men of infantry, 2,000 cavalry to the Prussian army, and entertain and pay for itself. For this, Prussia undertook to use the Kurwürde for the purpose of obtaining compensation, and to see to it that in case of any indemnity Hesse was to be paid for his expenses.⁵ The action of the Landgrave, especially his renunciation of subsidiarity, was described by his contemporaries as a particularly highly sacred one.

As early as January, 1792, he had arranged a concentration of troops on the Rhine in his Graffchaft Katzenelnbogen (between Lahn and Wisper); Three infantry regiments, a grenadier

battalion, a battalion of light infantry, the Prince Frederick-Dragoon Regiment, the Hanoverian hussars escadron, and a commando artillery were gathered there, and the Corps increased considerably during the course of the spring. The rest of the Hussars' regiment left Cassel on the 13th of May, marched over Marburg and Wetzlar, and took up stables in Kehlbach, Ober- and Nieder-Bachheim, and in Wintenverl, on the right wing of the occupied bayon.

The Rheinstrom, the fortress of Rheinfels, and two hunter companies advanced on the left bank to the Vogtei Pfalzfeld, secured the cantons.

These were almost the only troops which the allies of the Middle Rhine could have opposed to any French advance. The above-mentioned Polish complications had prompted the great powers to concentrate their troops in the East, and it lasted until the end of July, before an operation corps of the allies arrived at the Rheine.

France's rulers had taken their measures so that, on the 29th of April, the French army, 60,000 strong, could cross the border of the Austrian Netherlands (now Belgium), where only about 3,000 men of Austrian troops were fragmented. Nevertheless, the French could not achieve the slightest success; Were thrown back at every point, they had to be content to protect their own territory.

This was the result of the demoralization prevailing in the French army. The revolutionary leaders had, in the first place, endeavored to rob the throne of the military support; Their rebellious exertions had succeeded in loosening the discipline of the army to the utmost; they had driven out the officers belonging to the aristocracy from the country, and occupied their positions by sub-officers and connoisseurs, who lacked knowledge and authority. In the selection of the higher officers the political attitude was taken into consideration rather than the military efficiency.

Thus, at the beginning of the campaign, the French army was a flock which fled almost every time the enemy had met. But as, in the course of the war, the strength of the French armies increased as a result of the extensive exhortations, the discipline of the soldiers became a better one, since they had been kept in the stricter discipline of camp life, far from the excitement of the capital. The free augmentation brought usable people into the higher positions, and they soon found out

the way in which they had to lead their numerous, but untrained, bands in order to achieve success.

In opposites to these loose structures, which were only gradually gathered together, the armies of the allies were strong structures, which were held together by a strict husbandry and long-term training.

The Austro-Hungarians had been preserved in practice by protracted warfare, but the tendency to cruelty and plunder was spread among them, especially Croats, Varasdines, Seresans, and members of other peoples, still few affected by civilization, into the ranks of the army were recorded.

Prussia's troops were still on the same standpoint as in the Seven-Year War, with the difference that in the long years of peace there was a particularly narrow-minded holding of the forms, and the troop-service by the comforts of the had been unduly increased. The spirit of the soldiers was an excellent one, and the Hessian were the same.

It is permissible to quote the judgment of two contemporary writers on the latter.

"The memories of an old Prussian officer (General von Valentini)", p. 17: "The Hessian-Cassels were the most soldier of all the peoples who fought against France, although Prussia was not lacking in fighting and fame. To the Austrians, the kind of patient, tactful courage with which a landlord could do great things could not be denied as the testimony that they had been so far good all along, but the courage of cheerful endurance to dispense with the gift The true pleasure in the war seemed to be particularly favorable to the Hessians. "

In his "Critical and Military History of the Revolutionary War," the Frenchman Jomini writes the following, Vol. I, p. 237.

The Hessians, the subjects of Duke Ferdinand, were organized in Prussian fashion; It was thought to be veterans of Frederick: these well-commanded troops, consisting of country-wise men, had a decided superiority over the Prussians of that time, disciplined, brave and sober and patient, they covered themselves with fame everywhere where they had the opportunity to fight the same consist."

On the basis of such testimony, it may well be assumed that the condition of the Hessian troops had been a very good one. It was argued that the Hessians did not look back on a long period of peace, but were, for the most part, part of the struggles of the American War of Independence. England, as before against France, had taken Hessian troops from 1775-1783 against his North-American colonies, which had broken loose from the mother country, and were related to that distant continent. Even though such a procedure must seem reprehensible to our present moral opinions, this view has not always been widespread, and has found little ground in the Hessian country population, since the Hesse in uniform felt himself a professional soldier.

In any case, the American wars had been a pre-eminence for the army. The troops had been preserved, and fresh and tested forces had been paved the way for the officers. Hesse, on the other hand, enjoyed the experience gained in the battles against the American national heroes, when the French, like the Americans, were fighting against young French troops in *tirailleur*.

Before we enter into the Rhine Campaign, we may be reminded of the officers of the Officer-Corps since 1764. Major von Dalwigk, promoted to Colonel-General, promoted to Colonel in 1772, was appointed commander of the regiment of *Gensd'armes* in 1776; Major Schreiber, who had been transferred to the Dragoon Regiment of Schlotheim in 1773, was the chief of the Hussars Corps, in which he had already been seventeen years before. In 1777 Schreiber became a lieutenant colonel, 1782 Colonel and in 1785 he received the Order of Military Merit, which was donated in 1769, for his manifold merits, especially the Hussars Corps.

The Stabs-Rittmeister von Klockher, promoted to the Captain in 1778, died in 1786. According to the custom, the best horse of a deceased officer fell to the escadron chief, the regimental commander. In this case it was "left to the widow graciously." The uniform took over the Cornet Keitel "against taxation". Grass received his leave in 1773; von Trott was transferred to the body-dragon regiment in 1771.

The Lieutenants von Prüschenk and Wolfs in 1767 were transferred to the *Cheveauxlegers* Corps, and the latter was transferred to the Leib Dragoon Regiment. Stein and Ignazi separated in 1768, 1779, as well as the Cornets Avenarius and Jüngst in 1764, Fliess in 1765, H. Rudorfs in 1771.

Access:

1771 Cornet W. L. F. Rudorfs, 1778 Lieutenant, Staff Rittmeister 1781, 1782 in civil service, from 1786-92 again as Rittmeister in the regiment.

1775 Lieutenant F. C. Stirn von Stiernberg, 1779 Stabs-Rittmeister, 1785 seperated.

1778 Cornet Willich und Engels, 1779 seperated. Cornet Ströbel 1780 Lieutenant, 1791 Stabs-Rittmeister.

1779 Cornet von Bienthal, 1780 Lieutenant, and in 1786 the farewell was granted to him as Chief of Staff, since the magistrate of the city of Frankfurt am Main would have him as a councilor.

1785 Lieutenant von Schmied, transferred to the Jäger Corps in 1791 as a staff captain.

1786 Cornet Keitel, 1788 Lieutenant

1787 Rittmeister von Lehsten, was appointed Major in 1788. Lieutenants von Starckloff and von July, the latter in 1791. Cornets Bode, Grau, and Schmidtborn, first 1792 lieutenants, the latter 1791 separated.

1788 Stabs-Rittmeister Kellerhaus.

1789 Lieutenant von Besius, 1790 Staff-Rittmeister.

1791 Oberstlieutenant Prince Solms-Braunfels transferred from the regiment Gens- d'armes.

1792 Cornets von Sheldon and Volte; Säbeljunker Laroche von Starckenfels and Scheffer.

The position of the Officier Corps in the summer of 1792, before the beginning of the campaign, was as follows:

Commander: Oberst Johann Justus Schreiber.

Oberslieutenant: His Highness Wilhelm Heinrich Casimir Prince to Solms-Braunfels.

Major: Ludwig August von Lehsten.

Stabs-Rittmeister: Friedrich Kellerhaus, Heinrich Anton Philipp of Resius, Justus Engelhard Ströbel.

Lieutenants: Carl Gottfried Wilhelm von Starckloff, Johann Keitel, adjutant Friedrich Bode, Carl Hermann Grau.

Cornets: Carl von Sheldon, Carl Gottfried Volte.

Säbeljunker: Christian Laroche of Starckenfels, Ernst Scheffer (later the Commander from 1813-21)

Under-Staff

Auditor and Regimental Quartermaster: Christian Friedrich Brenner.

Regiment-Feldscheer: Justus Starckloff

1) Compilation of the main data, concerning Hussar's Corp. by Major von Dalwigk. (Commander of the same from 1763-1776.)

2) First printed rank list, contained in the "Hochfürstlich-Hessen-Cassel state and address calendar on the year 1764."

3) Spelling at the time, "Dolmans".

4) Two villages in the Ederthal on the Waldeck border.

5) These actual costs are calculated as follows: Mobilization 512,860 Tlr, Sold and Entertainment 773,032 Tlr., Equipment of Replenishment 78,528 Tlr., Summa 1,364,476 Tlr.